

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Edward B. Butcher, on February 6, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Edward B. Butcher, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Carol Lambert, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Shannon Augare (D)  
Rep. Scott Boggio (R)  
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Julie French (D)  
Rep. Ralph Heinert (R)  
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Jim Keane (D)  
Rep. Krayton Kerns (R)  
Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)  
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)  
Rep. Diane Rice (R)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Llew Jones  
Rep. Dan Villa  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Dee Barfknecht, Committee Secretary  
Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: HB 431, HB 432, HB 493  
Executive Action: HB 431, HB 380

**HEARING ON HB 431**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:17 Rep. Mark Blasdel (R), HD 10, opened the hearing on HB 431, Revise procedure for defining classifications of milk-related products.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:01 Bill Hadstrom, Dairy Producer  
00:04:03 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:04:42 Rep. Jopek  
00:05:20 Mr. Hadstrom  
00:06:03 Rep. Rice  
00:06:36 Mr. Hadstrom  
00:06:55 Chairman Butcher  
00:07:06 Mr. Hadstrom

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:07:29 Rep. Blasdel

**HEARING ON HB 493**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:08:03 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on HB 493, Labeling for genetically modified seeds.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:12:40 Katie Kassmier, Montana Farmers Union

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:16:52 Michael Kakuk, Attorney, Western Environmental Trade  
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh26a01)

00:20:19 Bruce Wright, Fourth Generation Farmer, Belgrade  
00:21:48 Sen. Don Steinbeisser  
00:25:43 John Stoner, Montana Grain Growers Association  
00:27:19 Mike DeVries, Montana Seed Company  
00:29:04 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau  
00:30:04 Al Skogen, Chairman of Growers for Biotechnology

**EXHIBIT (agh26a02)**

00:34:40 Ron Ueland, American Seed Trade Association

**EXHIBIT (agh26a03)**

00:36:29 Curtis Hershberger

00:36:55 Jim Lynch

**EXHIBIT (agh26a04)**

**EXHIBIT (agh26a05)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:37:38 Rep. Rice  
00:37:51 Mr. Kakuk  
00:38:59 Rep. Ross  
00:39:28 Rep. Cohenour  
00:40:39 Rep. Ross  
00:40:42 Rep. Cohenour  
00:40:58 Rep. Ross  
00:41:22 Dave Christensen  
00:41:31 Rep. Ross  
00:41:35 Mr. Christensen  
00:41:56 Rep. French  
00:42:25 Rep. Steinbeisser  
00:42:58 Rep. Lambert  
00:43:22 Mr. Christensen  
00:44:37 Rep. Lambert  
00:44:51 Mr. Christensen  
00:45:34 Rep. Jopek  
00:47:20 Ms. Kassmier  
00:47:25 Rep. Jopek  
00:48:33 Mr. Christensen  
00:48:46 Rep. French  
00:49:28 Rep. Cohenour  
00:49:53 Rep. French  
00:49:58 Rep. Cohenour  
00:50:22 Ms. Kassmier

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:50:41 Rep. Cohenour

---

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 431**

00:53:09 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Keane moved that **HB 431 DO PASS**.  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 18-0. Rep.  
Windy Boy, Villa and Jones voted by proxy.

---

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 380**

00:56:15 **Motion:** Rep. Jopek moved that **HB 380 DO PASS**.

00:56:32 **Motion:** Rep. Caferro moved that **HB 380 BE AMENDED**.  
**EXHIBIT** (agh26a06)

**Discussion:**

00:57:09 Krista Lee Evans

00:58:09 **Vote:** Motion that **HB 380 BE AMENDED** carried by voice  
vote 17-1. Rep. Ross voted no. Reps. Windy Boy, Villa  
and Jones voted by proxy.

00:58:39 **Motion:** Rep. Jopek moved that **HB 380 DO PASS AS**  
**AMENDED**.

**Discussion:**

00:58:46 Rep. Malcolm

00:58:52 Chairman Butcher

01:00:12 Rep. Jopek

01:00:19 **Vote:** Motion that **HB 380 DO PASS AS AMENDED** carried by  
roll call vote 10-8. Reps. Lambert, Rice, Augare,  
Ross, Heinert, Boggio, Mendenhall and Malcolm voted no.  
Reps. Windy Boy, Villa and Jones voted by proxy.

---

**HEARING ON HB 432**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:02:11 Rep. Brady Wiseman (D), Hd 65, opened the hearing on HB  
432, Liability for GMO's that escape property  
boundaries.

**EXHIBIT** (agh26a07)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:05:01 Thad Willis

**EXHIBIT (agh26a08)**

01:09:04 Christina Hubbard, Alternative Energy Resources  
Organization

01:13:43 Mr. Christensen

01:17:41 Ana Pederson

01:18:45 Rick Moore, Northern Plains Resource Council

01:19:38 Becky Weed

**EXHIBIT (agh26a09)**

01:22:35 Sedron Jones

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:23:41 Mr. Kakuk

**EXHIBIT (agh26a10)**

01:27:29 Mr. Wright

01:27:55 Sen. Steinbeisser

01:29:22 Mr. Stoner

01:31:23 Shane Strecker, Mountain States Beet Growers  
Association

01:32:08 Luther Talbert, Professor, Montana State University

01:33:26 Kelly Brester

01:34:17 Dan Biggerstaff

01:38:17 Mr. Hershberger

01:39:53 Mr. Skogen

**EXHIBIT (agh26a11)**

01:43:22 Mr. Youngberg

01:44:02 Mr. Ueland

01:46:44 Mr. Lynch

01:47:15 Pam Langley, American Seed Trade Association

**EXHIBIT (agh26a12)**

01:47:41 Rod Leafdale, Forage Genetics

01:48:42 Bing VonBergen

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:49:45 Rep. French

01:50:35 Ms. Hubbard

01:51:35 Rep. French

01:51:52 Mr. Christensen

01:52:12 Rep. Henry

01:52:23 Mr. Ueland

01:53:05 Mr. Willis

01:53:44 Rep. French

01:54:14 Mr. Willis  
01:55:35 Rep. French  
01:55:51 Mr. Willis  
01:56:19 Rep. Caferro  
01:57:16 Mr. Christensen  
01:58:09 Rep. Caferro  
01:58:31 Mr. Christensen  
01:58:44 Rep. Caferro  
01:59:05 Mr. Stoner  
01:59:22 Rep. Caferro  
01:59:29 Mr. Stoner  
01:59:33 Rep. Caferro  
01:59:45 Mr. Stoner  
02:01:26 Rep. Caferro  
02:01:40 Mr. Stoner  
02:02:49 Rep. Henry  
02:03:09 Mr. Stoner  
02:03:23 Rep. Jopek  
02:03:44 Mr. Skogen  
02:04:45 Rep. Jopek  
02:05:03 Mr. Talbert  
02:05:25 Rep. Jopek  
02:06:10 Ms. Hubbard  
02:06:30 Rep. Jopek  
02:07:03 Ms. Hubbard  
02:08:17 Rep. Jopek  
02:08:51 Rep. Wiseman  
02:10:17 Rep. Jopek  
02:11:07 Mr. Christensen  
02:11:55 Chairman Butcher  
02:12:01 Mr. Skogen  
02:13:37 Chairman Butcher  
02:13:48 Mr. Skogen  
02:14:47 Chairman Butcher  
02:15:44 Rep. Wiseman  
02:16:59 Chairman Butcher  
02:17:08 Mr. Biggerstaff  
02:20:47 Chairman Butcher  
02:21:27 Mr. Biggerstaff  
02:21:33 Mr. Willis  
02:23:37 Chairman Butcher  
02:24:13 Rep. Jopek  
02:24:42 Mr. Biggerstaff  
02:25:01 Rep. Jopek  
02:25:08 Mr. Biggerstaff  
02:25:51 Rep. Jopek  
02:26:34 Mr. Biggerstaff  
02:26:54 Chairman Butcher

02:27:02 Ms. Evans  
02:28:47 Rep. Lambert  
02:29:23 Ms. Evans  
02:30:03 Rep. Rice  
02:31:13 Rep. Wiseman  
02:31:50 Rep. Caferro  
02:32:28 Mr. Stoner  
02:33:11 Rep. Mendenhall  
02:33:52 Mr. Talbert

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:34:30 Rep. Wiseman

**ADJOURNMENT**

02:36:18 Adjournment

---

REP. EDWARD B. BUTCHER, Chairman

---

DEE BARFKNECHT, Secretary

EB/db

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([agh26aad.pdf](#))**